

WORLD CHILDREN'S POETRY DAY

THEME: DRUMS FOR PEACE

GUIDANCE KIT



YEARS 2008 – 2009

WORLD POETRY – CHILDHOOD DAY
THEME: DRUMS FOR PEACE

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1. Information plan :

The aim of this initiative is to allow the greatest possible number of children to participate in this active poetry event, and above all, to **let them express themselves** within this project.

2. The poetry contest :

2.1. Organisation of the poetry contest :

To make this poetry contest accessible to the greatest possible number of children, each country is strongly advised to implement a working team/structure to manage this aspect of the World Poetry – Childhood Day.

This contest is to be organized by each country according to his traditions and culture.

You are free to use your imagination .
Here is the Belgian experience:

Poetry Contest Rules:

Children write and illustrate (for example with a drawing) a poem based on the proposed theme.

Those taking part in this poetry must comply with the following rules :

1. This poetry contest is aimed at children under the age of 13.
2. The teachers and youth workers are asked to encourage their pupils to think about the theme “Drums For Peace”.
3. Children should write and illustrate a poem on the above theme. Although the jury will only select a poem, it would be nice if a poem could be illustrated by a drawing, painting or collage, and be stuck on strong paper (or cardboard) enabling easy presentation and sufficient protection during exhibitions. After the Rally, please kindly send us a few copies.
4. Participants are requested to indicate on the back of the sheet their family name, first name, age, as well as the name, address, e-mail and telephone number of their school and teacher.
5. The poems must be sent to us before the 23rd of February 2009 to the following address : (address of the institution organising the poetry contest)
6. A jury will select the best poems. The decisions of the jury will be final.

7. Only prize winners will personally be informed by the secretary's office.
8. Organisation of an official ceremony: The announcement and prize giving will take place on 20 March 2009 and will be attended by important personalities.

2.2. Composition of the jury:

The Belgian jury was composed of 15 persons. This number can change according to the number of participants in the contest. As the percentage of young people in other countries is so much higher than in Belgium, I would plan a large number of jury members as you may expect thousands of thousands poems to read!

The jury must be made up of representatives from the worlds of education, the Press and poetry.

What should be taken into account whilst reading these poems?

- Understanding and interpreting of the theme.
- Poetic dimension of the text
- Originality
- Expression of the child's personality

The poems are read by the persons attending the jury meeting. After the reading, a vote will determine if the poem is selected or not. Information such as the name of the school or the district may not be mentioned during this reading in order to avoid any favouritism.

The selected poems are read again. Finally, the prize-winners' poems are chosen and the positions are given. (First, Second, Third, Fourth – By age – By language – By district - ...).

Special mentions may be given.

In view of the very large quantity of poems received, it is sometimes necessary to set up a preliminary jury.

2.3. The Prize-winners :

We would like the children participating in this poetry contest to be rewarded by prizes related to writing, literature, culture and education.

To collect the Belgian prizes, we contact publishing houses, games manufactures, bookshops, records shops, stationer's shops,...

You may also ask museums, concert halls, and entertainment venues to give you free tickets or entrance for educational days.

The gifts are handed out according to prize-winners' ages and as fairly as possible.

2.4. The personalities :

Each year, we offer prize-winners the chance to meet prominent cultural personalities or persons famous for their commitment to Peace and Tolerance.

Children are prepared for this meeting through prior work with the teachers and youth workers. This moment will be an opportunity for pupils to ask questions.

3. Two steps to take :

The action will take place at 2 different levels:

- The poetic approach
- The Drums rallies in public places: 20 March 2009.

3.1. Educational steps :

3.1.1. To introduce children to the concept and to see with them how they want to get involved :

- In the classroom
- With other classes
- With the whole school
- With other schools
- With the municipality
- With other municipalities
- Within a district
- With another district
- Via contact with a municipality in another country.

3.1.2. Children lead the appeals by themselves. For example:

- In the school, a few children in the classroom announce this project by Beating the Drums in other classrooms and by inviting them to gather themselves on 20 March 2009.
- By writing to the local authorities to get authorization to Beat the Drums in a public place and ... getting actively involved in this project (The citizen dimension of writing to the local authorities).
- By contacting the local press.

- Children organise an information meeting with other schools interested in the project to plan a joint initiative.
- Children can mark their city, town or village on a map.
- By writing an e-mail with a leaflet to invite other schools in the municipality or the inhabitants to Beat the Drums with them.
- By suggesting to associations that they actively participate in the organisation of this Rally, each of them will bring a specific contribution :

- music schools (activities on the stage)
- Fine Arts museum (creating instruments and banners)
- Djembe associations (activities on the podium)
- Cultural centers (activity leaders)
- Voluntary organisations to give hand out leaflets, invitations,...

3.2. Rally location :

Ideally, in a public place (for example a football stadium). The sound of the “Drums for Peace” must call as many people as possible.

Choose the most lively place or why not have it in the schoolyard

3.3. Rally date and duration :

We ask to Beat the Drums for Peace

On 20 March 2009

From 11.30 to 12.00 am

This date and time are symbolic. By strictly respecting them, children are aware that the gesture they are making is also being carried out by other children at the same time in other countries worldwide.

This means that the children are on the spot from 11.15 am to 12.15 am.

3.4. Scenario of the Rally :

During the half hour of Drum Beating, a scenario must be devised. You are free to organise it as you wish.

To help you, you will find some advice below:

General remarks:

A non-stop Drums' roll of half hour is not the aim here.

It has to be broken into children's poems, short speeches of awareness and musical interludes. Do not forget that this event must be full of meanings but it must also be a pleasant moment for the children.

Children must be the main actors of this event !

Let them speak by inviting them to read their poems at schools.

Texts in which they will **dare to express** their wish for of peace and their refusal of violence here and elsewhere. A popular song or slogans are also good ideas for of gatherings. Why not have a singer or a choir?

A important reminder to the children:

During this Rally, an adult must properly explain to the children the 2 following points:

- The meaning of their gesture :

The children Beat the Drums so that there is no war, less violence in the world and in our daily lives. By making noise with the Beats of the Drums, the children will be heard.

Thanks to the presence of the national authorities and the press, this event will be noticed by the political world who will perhaps make changes in favour of peace.

- The simultaneity of all Rallies :

To inform them that, at the same moment, other children in other countries and throughout the world will be making the same gesture. This will give their actions a strength of unity make them feel positive about the future. On this subject, a text from Mrs. Moussia Haulot, President of this action,

can be sent to you a few days before the Rally. This text will be read in Belgium while children will Beat the Drums.

The Drums and their rhythm:

To Beat the Drums,

We advise children to make their own percussion instruments.

This process is very lively and has met great success in schools.

Other remarks :

It would be better for your ears for children to be guided by a percussionist such as a djembe player or drummer...

In this way the adult will give a structured rhythm to the children, who will respond.

Suggestions to make your percussion instruments :

- recycling waste products
- The Fine Arts Academies can perhaps offer the help of students to make these Drums.

Suggestion of a scenario: based on the Belgian experience.

10.45 am: Rallies in the schoolyards

10.55 am: Departure to the public place, playing Drums.

11.15 am: Arrival at the public place

11.30 am: Beginning of the event. The presenter will announce the different items on the programme and will spur on the Beating of the Drums.

- Beating of the Drums
- Word by the moderator
- A few words from the mayor
- Beating of the Drums
- Reading of the children's poems
- Beating of the Drums
- Presentation of very visual billboards
- Beating of the Drums
- More poems
- Beating of the Drums
- Reading of a text by Mrs. Haulot, President of the event
- Beating of the Drums and End.

12.05 am: Return to schools

Organisation and coordination : the Prize giving.

As far as large Rallies are concerned, for example when many schools take action together, I advise you to appoint different responsible persons to the main functions.

For example:

- Accompanying the children: from the school to the place where the Rally will be held, the arrangement of the groups in the public place, badges or any other sign to identify the pupils by school...
- Road safety: panels, beacons, police, ...
- The children's transport from some other districts, parking for trucks or busses ...
- Contact with the local authorities
- Contact with the schools
- Scenario for this Event and Rally
- Traffic police
- Technical aspects (providing of sound effects...)
- The presenter on the stage who will make the link between the different important moments.
- Information's campaign.

Recommended material for the ceremony: The Prize giving.

- Stage
- Microphones
- Equipment for sound effects
- Streamers and/or visual meaningful symbols made at school
- Barriers to show the way

The press and the project's promotion :

- Billboards
- The Press (broadcasts, TV and radio programmes, newspapers, magazines will present the event).

Who can help you? ... Some ideas

- The municipality or district can help you spread information about this project in schools, give authorisation to be in the public places, ensure the children's security, lend the stage and provide the sound effects, ...

- The school of music can help the children's Drums Beating, and teach them to follow the rhythm...
- Djembe players
- Art schools and academies can get a presenter to can read the poems (it's important to let the children read their text).
- Fine Arts academies can help make instruments.
- Commercial firms can help you to obtain recycle products (for example tuns, barrels,...).
- Veteran associations to share what they experienced and to help the children to be aware of the theme.
- Any person involved in setting up a world of peace, persons who have experienced war. For example : NGOs like Unicef, Handicap International, Amnesty International... or a bomb disposal expert , a soldier, ...
- Artists from different disciplines of instruction for their good ideas.
- Poets to guide the children in their poetic approach and thinking.

More ideas:

- Organise a conference about this theme
- Introduce this project in a course at school (religion classes for example).
- Build up a wall of poets (with cardboard boxes, collage,...).

We will be happy to work with you.

Don't hesitate to contact us for any further information:

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